

Grace Church Visitor

A Monthly Magazine Devoted to the Interest of Grace Reformed Church

FORT WAYNE INDIANA

VOL. XXV

DECEMBER, 1913

No. 2

"Christmas time has come again,
Christmas pleasures bringing;
Oh, may all your Christmas day
With melody be ringing."

Monthly and annual meeting of the Woman's Aid Society Thursday afternoon, Jan. 8th.

The mid-winter communion service will be held on Sabbath morning, Jan. 11th. We will have special services during the week of prayer, beginning Jan. 4th.

On your calendar for the new year put a check mark opposite Jan. 1st, so you will not forget the men's annual supper New Year's evening, 5 to 7:30. The tickets are now ready to sell and are 25 cents.

The pastor will organize a catechetical class after the holidays. There are a number of the boys and girls in the Sunday School who should join this class. We shall be glad to have any of the older people meet with us who may wish to do so. The class will meet on Sunday morning at 9 o'clock.

ANNUAL STATEMENTS.

The financial-secretary will have the annual statements out by Sunday, Dec. 21st. It is earnestly hoped that all the members will try to have their pledges paid in full by the last Sunday in the year, as we are in need of all the money pledged.

Members who have not given pledges, are requested to make an effort to give us a liberal offering for the year, and if you have not done your best, may we urge you to make us a good offering now.

If we are to make a good financial showing at the annual meeting, Jan. 1st, we must have a hearty and liberal re-

sponse from those who have not paid their share toward the maintenance of the church.

Yours sincerely,

W. F. CLOSE,

Fin. Secy.

The annual congregational meeting will be held New Year's evening in the lecture rooms of the church at 8 o'clock. Every member of the church should be at this meeting. The annual reports will be read, there will be an election of officers and other important business will be transacted. The following nominations have been made by the consistory: For elders, F. E. More, Frank Leikauf, H. P. Dinger, Charles Rogers; deacons, J. W. Brewer, Oscar Snook, Arthur Weiler, John Sessler; financial secretary, W. F. Close; treasurer, J. W. Brewer.

MENU NEW YEAR'S SUPPER.

Roast Pork	Apple Sauce
Mashed Potatoes, Brown Gravy	
Slaw	Celery
	Bread
	Ice Cream and Cake

A finance committee has been appointed by the Laymen's League to solicit for the supper. J. W. Brewer, Ed Close and Evan Williams constitute this committee. Every man in the church is supposed to contribute to this supper. It is the only supper the men of the church give during the whole year and we ought to make this a great success. The League thinks the contributions had better be in money, and every man is asked to contribute a dollar or more. The other committees will be appointed by the president of the League and announced later. Tickets for the supper can be secured from the finance committee. Get a supply and sell all you can.

AT REST.

Wednesday morning at 11 o'clock, Nov. 26, our beloved and highly esteemed young brother, Irving E. Bitner, passed through the gates into the Father's house of Many Mansions. In one of our favorite psalms, the writer says: "Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth those that fear him. For He knoweth our frame, He remembereth that we are dust. As for man his days are as grass; as a flower of the field so he flourishes. For the wind passeth over it and it is gone.

Like one of God's fair and beautiful flowers, so was the life of our brother, and the autumn wind passed over it, and it was gone. He had been in poor health for several years. Two years ago he went to California and took a position with the government at Yreka. For a year or more his health continued to improve, but when he returned home last June it was evident that he was far from being well. The first of September he went back to California, to Santiago, where he hoped the climate might be more favorable, but he found himself getting worse and returned home again the first of November. The long journey home, and the unfavorable weather conditions here seemingly hurried on his death.

He was born in Fort Wayne June 13th, 1886. He was baptized by Rev. Dr. Charles Schaaf, then pastor of the St. John's Reformed church. He united with the Grace Reformed church on Easter Sunday, April 2nd, 1896.

From early childhood Irving loved and feared the Lord. He was exemplary in his Christian life and deportment. He served the Lord with an earnest heart, and with gladness. He was always regular in his attendance upon all of the services of the church, Sunday School and prayer meeting. For a number of years he was secretary and treasurer of the Sunday School, president of the Young People's Society, president of the Local Union and secretary of the Fort Wayne District of the Young People's Society. In our entire

ministry we have met but few young men who were as devoted to the church, and loyal to the Lord, and His work. He was a comfort and inspiration to his pastor and the church, and his life should be an example and inspiration to all who knew him. We are sure that while he has gone from us, he will continue to speak to us, and admonish us.

The secret of his beautiful life was his faith and consecration to the Lord. A few hours before his death we were summoned to his home and in that last conversation with him, he assured us of his hope, and full surrender to the will of his Master. While his life had been so full of promise, he was ready to answer the call of the Lord. He quoted to us from what he said was his favorite chapter in the Bible, John 14. These were the verses he repeated: "Let not your heart be troubled. Ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions, if it were not so I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you." In the hope and assurance expressed in these verses he passed away to his eternal home. The end was peaceful and happy. He has gone to be forever with the Lord. Our hope and prayer is that the mantle of this young brother may fall upon the shoulders of others who will take his place in the church and young people's work. The funeral services were held from the church on Saturday afternoon, Nov. 29th. A large company of friends and acquaintances came to the service to pay their last tribute of love and esteem to this friend and brother. The pastor had charge of the service, after which the Scottish Rite Thirty-second Degree Masons, had their usual ritual. The remains were then taken to the Lindenwood cemetery and placed in the family lot, where they will rest in peace until the Lord will come again. The parents, four sisters and five brothers mourn the death of this son and brother. "Let not your heart be troubled. Ye believe in God, believe ye also in me."

Just as we were going to press with the last issue of the Visitor, we received a copy of the Aberdeen Free Press, dated Nov. 11th, announcing the death of Mr. David W. Abernethy, the good brother, who together with his two sisters and niece, entertained us in their home while we were attending the Council of the Reformed and Presbyterian churches in their city in June. A few days later we received a letter from Miss Catherine, one of the sisters, giving further particulars of the death of their brother. The announcement of this death brings a great sorrow to our hearts, for we had learned to know and love him as a dear brother in Christ. He was seemingly so well and so very happy when we were with them. His death is a great loss to the home and to the church in which he was such an active worker.

We know that our people will be interested in reading the notice of his death, which appeared in the Aberdeen Press, and will join us in extending our sympathy to the sisters and friends in their bereavement.

MR. D. W. ABERNETHY.

"The death took place suddenly in the Great Northern Hotel, London, on Sunday of Mr. David Wyllie Abernethy, of the Ferryhill Foundry, Aberdeen. Mr. Abernethy had been on a holiday in Cornwall, and had entered the train at King's Cross on Saturday morning to return home, when he was seized with violent illness, and had to be conveyed to the Great Northern Hotel, where he received medical attention through the day and night, but succumbed about 9 o'clock on Sunday morning. Mr. Abernethy was a son of Mr. James Abernethy, C. E., of James Abernethy and Company, a very old firm of iron founders. His mother was a daughter of Mr. David Wyllie, bookseller, and founder of the firm of Messrs. D. Wyllie and Sons, booksellers. After the death of his father and his uncle, Mr. Robert Abernethy, Mr. David Abernethy carried on the extensive business of the

firm in company with his cousin, Mr. James Washington Abernethy. Mr. Abernethy, who was about 65 years of age, was a man of a quiet and retiring disposition and of a very kindly and attractive personality. His principal interests apart from his business centred in church and philanthropic work. He was an elder in the South United Free Church for many years, and gave much assistance in the carrying on of the congregational work. Though never taking any particular interest in municipal matters, he was a member of the Council of the Chamber of Commerce and of the Conciliation Board. Mr. Abernethy was also one of the trustees of the Mechanics' Institute, and one of the Committee of Management of Morningfield Hospital, of the Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor, and of the Aberdeen Dispensary. In addition, he was chairman of the Gramscian Steam Fishing Company, Ltd.

"Mr. Abernethy was unmarried, and is survived by three sisters, Mrs. Fraser, widow of the late Mr. Gray Campbell Fraser, advocate in Aberdeen; and two unmarried sisters, with whom he resided. His sudden death will be very much felt by his numerous friends throughout the city."

MARRIAGES.

Saturday noon, at the home of Mrs. Alma Niedhammer, 804 Elizabeth street, Miss Hazel Johnson, of New Haven, Ind., and Mr. Edward D. Caswell were united in marriage by the pastor. Miss Hazel Caswell and Mr. Orville Johnson, sister and brother of the bride and groom were attendants. The ceremony was witnessed by a large company of friends of the bride and groom. After the wedding dinner, the young people went to their own home on Elizabeth street.

Tuesday afternoon, Dec. 9th, Mrs. Beulah Steward and Mr. Bernhart Krull were united in marriage at the parsonage. A few of the nearest friends of the bride and groom were present to witness the ceremony.

Grace Church Visitor

REV. A. ZARTMAN, Editor and Publisher

Subscription Price, 25 cents per year

"May the twilight of your Christmas joys linger until another Christmas day."

Mr. Raymond Close was at home from Purdue for the Thanksgiving season.

Miss Esther Weiler will be home from Heidelberg for the holiday season.

Mrs. Parley Zartman, of Chicago, was a guest at the parsonage for a few days recently.

Rev. and Mrs. Diefenbach and children were visitors at the parsonage Dec. 9th and 10th.

Look over the advertisements in the Visitor and in your Christmas shopping and general buying, patronize the merchants who by their advertising make the publication of our paper possible.

The Christmas sale and supper on Thursday, Dec. 4th, will net about \$80. Some of the articles at the fancy and apron booths were not sold. If you should wish any of these articles, inquire of the ladies of the Aid Society.

The women of the Aid Society did a very commendable thing when they voted to give \$50 to the new hospital building. We hope by the time the building is erected they will be able to make their gift sufficiently large to furnish a room.

Our Christmas services will be held on the Sunday preceding Christmas, Dec. 21st. At 9:30 the Sunday School will have a Christmas lesson. The Christmas sermon and Christmas music at 10:30. Christmas service for the church and Sunday School at 4 o'clock in the afternoon. This service will consist of carols, recitations and a number of stereopticon slides on the birth of Jesus. We want the children and parents out to the afternoon service. We want everybody to get out to the services on this day. The members of the church and Sunday School and Cradle

Roll will be furnished with special envelopes for the Christmas offering. Let us make a real Christmas offering to the Lord as an expression of our appreciation of His love and goodness to us in the giving of His Son, and the blessing He has bestowed upon us during the year. Give the very best you have to the Lord. Nothing is too good for Him. He gave us His best gift, His only begotten and well-beloved Son.

SABBATH EVENING SERMONS BY THE PASTOR, ON OBSERVATIONS IN OTHER LANDS.

Topics.

Dec. 14th—London, the World's Metropolis, Its People and Churches.

Dec. 21st—A Christmas Sermon. The World's Conqueror—At the Tomb of Napoleon.

Dec. 28th—Christ and Religion in the Art Galleries of Europe.

Jan. 4th—Picturesque Switzerland. On the Mountain Top.

Jan. 11th—Zurich, the Home of Ulric Zwigli. The World's Sunday School Convention.

Jan. 25th—The Rhine. From Bingen to Cologne. Terraced Mountain Slopes, Castle and Cathedrals.

Feb. 1st—Protestant Berlin—The City and Palace of the King.

Feb. 8th—Holland, the Cradle of the Dutch Reformed Church.

Feb. 15th—Homeward Bound. Coming into Port.

Bring yourself and your friends to these Sabbath evening services.

The duplex envelopes for the new year are here and will be distributed in due time. In the meantime do some prayerful thinking and estimating as to what you should do for the support of your church the coming year. Have you done your full duty to your church and for the cause of Christ at large? If not, the new year will afford you a good opportunity to start in and do better. We are sure many whose names

are on church rolls have been very derelict in their giving and doing for the church. Read carefully the lines below. If every member was a member like me, What kind of a church would my church be?

There is one thing more you can do, respond to the financial secretary's plea. If you have not done your share of giving for the support of the church so far this year, do your share before the year closes.

CHURCH FINANCES.

To pledge or not to pledge! That is the question.

Whether it is nobler in a man to take The Gospel free, and another man foot the bill,

Or sign a pledge and pay towards the Church expenses!

To give, to pay—aye, there's the rub—to pay!

When on the free pew plan a man may have

A sitting free and take the Gospel, too, As though he paid, and none be aught the wiser,

Save the vestry committee, who— Most honorable men—can keep a secret! To err is human; human, too, to buy At cheapest rate. I'll take the Gospel so;

For others do the same—a common rule. I'm wise; I'll wait, not work; I'll pray, not pay,

And let the other fellow foot the bills— And so with me the Gospel's free, you see!

The pastor and wife spent Tuesday, Nov. 17th, at Warsaw, Ind., attending the Bob Jones revival meetings and a Bible Workers' conference. The conference was under the direction of Rev. Parley Zartman, of the Moody Bible Institute, Chicago. The pastor spoke in the afternoon on the World's Sunday School convention, held at Zurich, Switzerland. We were glad to have the opportunity of hearing Bob Jones, also Dr. Guille, of the Bible Institute. Bob Jones and his workers will be at Bluffton for a meeting in January.

In your Christmas giving do not forget the debt of gratitude you owe to your Heavenly Father. Give Him your heart's best gift of love and devotion, and your hand's best gift of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

C. E. TOPICS AND LEADERS

December.

21. The Christmas Spirit, and how it Prevails. Isa. 9:2-7. A. Jones.
28. Our Church at Work for the World. Mark 16:14-20. Mrs. Zartman.

January.

4. Twelve Great Verses. First, The Salvation Verse. John 3:16. Rev. A. K. Zartman.
11. Purpose, Persistency and Power in Prayer. Matt. 7:7-11. Geo. Shiffer.
18. Ambitious Endeavorers. 2 Tim. 2:1-15. Led by the President, Evan Williams.

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Social Com.—Nora Minor, Esther Fritz, Ruth More, Arthur Bitner, Loretta Gooley, Helen Weickart, Elsie Krenz, Ruth Siebold, Raymond Close.

Lookout Com.—Edith Shiffer, Earl Dinger, Evan Williams, Mrs. Geo. Shiffer, Helen Trish.

Whatsoever Com.—Hazel Gooley, Mrs. F. D. Knott, Elsie Weickart, Lizzie Rudissill, Nellie Guilaum.

Missionary Com.—Mrs. Zartman, Lulu Bitner, Bertha Weickart, Neta Heyman.

Music Com.—A. Jones, Ruth Gumpfer.

Into each life some rain must fall;
Some days must be dark and dreary.
—Longfellow.

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